

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00940 021340Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SSC-01 /071 W  
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R 021205 MAR 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6699  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0940

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SU  
SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: AN ESTABLISHMENT ANALYSIS

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 777 (B) KHARTOUM 864 (C) KHARTOUM 890

1. REFTELS REPORTED ON RECENT NATIONAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WITH OUR PRELIMINARY COMMENTS. SET OUT BELOW ARE COMMENTS OF IZZ EL-DIN SAYED WHO WAS CHAIRMAN FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY AND WHO IS EXPERIENCED, WELL INFORMED POLITICIAN. SAYED IS MEMBER SSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND HIS VIEWS CAN BE CONSIDERED THOSE OF ESTABLISHMENT POLITICIAN.  
2. SAYED DOWNPLAYED FACT THAT LESS THAN 20 PERCENT OF ELECTED MEMBERS PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY WERE RETURNED BY VOTERS. HE SAID THIS WAS DUE MAINLY TO FACT THAT MANY SSU MEMBERS CHOSE NOT TO RUN, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN SOME CASES INCUMBENTS FEARED DEFEAT AT POLLS. NEWCOMERS, HE SAID WERE NOT AFFILIATED WITH OLDER PARTIES EXCEPT FOR 28 WHO WERE MUSLIM BROTHERS OR FOLLOWERS OF SADIQ AL-MAHDI. HE DID NOT SEE THIS GROUP AS THREATENING.  
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3. HE CLAIMED THAT NINETY PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE RURAL VOTERS WENT TO POLLS. IN GENERAL THEY SENT RELATIVELY BETTER EDUCATED, YOUNGER MEN TO KHARTOUM. TYPICALLY, LOCAL SCHOOL MASTER OR PUBLIC OFFICIAL WHO OFTEN READ PEOPLE'S MAIL FOR THEM OR WROTE LETTERS FOR THEM WERE ELECTED. THUS, NEW TYPICAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM

RURAL CONSTITUENCY IS RELATIVELY YOUNG, EDUCATED AND CLOSE TO HIS PEOPLE BUT OUTSIDE TRIBAL LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE, WITHOUT NATIONAL PARTY AFFILIATION AND GENERALLY INEXPERIENCED IN TERMS OF NATIONAL POLITICS. INEXPERIENCE MADE UP FOR BY QUALITY, SAYED SAID.

4. HE CONTRASTED HEAVY VOTING IN COUNTRYSIDE WITH FORTY PERCENT TURNOUT IN MAJOR CITIES. HE CONCEDED THAT THIS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS PROTEST. HE SAID BASIC PROBLEM WAS ABSENCE OF GOOD CANDIDATES IN CITIES, DUE TO PART TO FALL-OFF OF SSU CANDIDATES MENTIONED ABOVE. BUT HE MAINTAINED THAT ELECTION WAS NOT RPT NOT MANDATE TO EITHER SADIQ OR MUSLIM BROTHERS.

5. IN THAT CONNECTION, HE SAID THAT UNLESS NIMEIRI NOMINATES SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL, ABUL GASSEM HASHEM LIKELY TO BE RETAINED AS SPEAKER. HE WAS SELECTED BY NIMEIRI YEAR AGO AND HAS HIS OWN POWER BASE IN GEZIRA PROVINCE. IN ADDITION MOST PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER SECTORAL (AS DISTINCT FROM GEOGRAPHICALLY BASED) MEMBERS AND THE THIRTY NIMEIRI WILL NAME, ARE LIKELY TO SUPPORT HIM.

6. COMMENT: IF SAYED IS RIGHT, NEW ASSEMBLY WILL BE LESS EXPERIENCED AND MORE INDEPENDENT WITH INITIAL FOCUS ON LOCAL ISSUES. IT WILL NOT RPT NOT NECESSARILY BE OPPOSITIONIST, HOWEVER. SAYED PREDICTS THAT OVER FIRST YEAR PARLIAMENT WILL SETTLE DOWN AND MEMBERS WILL LEARN RULES OF POLITICS IN KHARTOUM. BERGUS

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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